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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Rep. Gary Hebl, (608) 266-7678

Fall 2016 Election and Early Voting Information

By Representative Gary Hebl

We are entering the final stretch of the 2016 election season. There has been a lot of action in the courts regarding voting laws in Wisconsin. The lawsuits can create some confusion, so in an effort to make voting as easy and painless as can be, I would like to lay out as much information as possible so that any eligible voters that wants to have their voice heard is comfortable heading to the polls.

First, make sure that you are registered by visiting myvote.wi.gov. If you are not yet registered, you can use that site to register. You can also register at your polling place in the weeks leading up to the election; however, you may want to check with your polling place to make sure that the window for pre-election registration is still open. If it is not, you can still register to vote in person at your polling place on Election Day. Polls will be open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day. As long as you are in the voting line no later than 8pm, you will be allowed to cast your vote.

The most high-profile litigation regarding Wisconsin voting is Voter ID. The courts continually go back and forth as to its constitutionality, which in turn constantly affects whether or not voters are required to bring a valid photo ID to the polls. For the November 8 presidential election, you WILL need to bring a valid form of identification to the polls. To see which forms of identification are acceptable and how you can get an acceptable ID, please go to www.bringitwisconsin.com.

Wisconsin voters are able to cast in person absentee vote (also called "early voting") at their municipal clerk's office for the November 8 presidential election. Each municipality in the 46th district, which includes the City & Town of Sun Prairie, City of Stoughton, and the Towns of Pleasant Springs, Cottage Grove (Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7), and Dunkirk (Wards 1, 3, 5), has early voting hours. You can find those hours at the end of this column.

Voting is one of the most important civic duties in which a United States citizen can participate. With a united voice Americans can come together and make a decision about the direction they would like the country to take. I encourage every eligible voter to make sure that they get to the polls on or before November 8. With expanded early voting hours, voting has become more accessible to the public.

City Sun Prairie Early Voting Hours

Early voting begins on September 26. The hours for early voting are from 9/26-10/21, 8:00am-4:30pm; 10/24-11/3, 8am-7pm; 11/4, 8am-5pm

Town of Sun Prairie Early Voting Hours

Early voting has begun; hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am-2pm until November 3rd. On Friday, November 4, they will also be open from 12pm-7pm.

Village of Cottage Grove Early Voting Hours

Early has begun and goes until Friday, November 4. The hours for early voting are Monday - Friday from 7:30am-4:30pm

Town of Cottage Grove Early Voting Hours

Early voting has begun and goes until 11/4, the Friday before election. Voting hours are Monday through Friday from 8am-4:30pm.

City of Stoughton Early Voting Hours

Early voting begins Monday, October 3 from 7:30am-4:30pm and goes until Friday before election, which is November 4.

Town of Dunkirk Early Voting Hours

I was not able to reach the Town of Dunkirk in time for this column. To find out early voting hours, please contact them at 608.873.9177. Their office hours are 2pm-5pm on Mondays.

Town of Pleasant Springs Early Voting Hours

Pleasant Springs is a bit more complicated. Early in person voting begins October 10 and runs through November 4. However, they are not open every day for voting, and the days they are open have varied hours. I encourage you to go to www.pleasantsprings.org to find the full information on voting hours.

Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the village of Cottage Grove, and the townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.

Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at Rep. Hebl@legis.wi.gov.

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